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BOARD OF
ARCHITECTS

9-6-01 James House
DR. JAMES S. HSU
Executive Director

FILED

By: Shirley S. Passow Deputy Attorney General Tel. No. (973) 648-2975

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
STATE BOARD OF ARCHITECTS

IN THE MATTER OF

ALBERT BIRCH, JR.
License No. AI 13166

LICENSED TO PRACTICE
ARCHITECTURE IN
THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Administrative Action
CONSENT ORDER

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Administrative Action

This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Board of Architects (hereinafter the "Board") upon receipt of information that Albert Birch, Jr., a licensee of this Board, practiced architecture through Christian Designs, Ltd., an entity which does not have a Certificate of Authority from this Board to practice architecture in New Jersey. On July 12, 2001 respondent appeared without counsel at an investigative inquiry by the Board.

Having considered the testimony of respondent at the investigative inquiry and reviewed the entire record, it appears to the Board that:

1. Respondent failed to obtain a Certificate of Authorization from the Board of

Architects to enable his company, Christian Designs Limited, to practice architecture in New Jersey. Said conduct violated N.J.S.A. 45:3-18(a) and N.J.A.C. 13:27-6.2.

2. Respondent permitted the name of an unlicensed draftsman, Claud Jones, 129 Palm Street, Newark, NJ 07106, to appear in the title block on documents for a second client, a pre-school in Newark, NJ. Said conduct violated N.J.A.C. 13:27-5.5(c) and N.J.A.C. 13:27-6.6(f).

These facts establish the basis for disciplinary action pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e) and N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(n). It appearing that respondent desires to resolve this matter, without admissions of violations and without recourse to formal proceedings, and for good cause shown:

IT IS ON THIS DAY OF August 2001 HEREBY ORDERED AND AGREED THAT:

- 1. Respondent shall cease and desist from practicing architecture through the business corporation, Christian Designs Limited, unless and until the firm qualifies for a Certificate of Authorization from the State Board of Architects, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:3-18(a) and N.J.A.C. 13:27-6.2. Respondent may continue to perform architectural services solely under his individual license, which shall be renewed annually as required.
- 2. Respondent shall cease from permitting the name of an unlicensed person or entity to appear in the title block of the licensed architect on construction documents.
- 3. Respondent is hereby assessed civil penalties, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-22, in the aggregate amount of \$300 for conduct with respect to: practicing architecture as a corporate entity without obtaining the requisite Certificate of Authorization, in violation of

N.J.S.A. 45:3-18(a) (\$150); and aiding and abetting the unlicensed practice of architecture

by permitting the name of an unlicensed individual to appear within the architect's title

block, in violation of N.J.A.C. 13:27-5.5(c) and N.J.A.C. 13:27-6.6(f) (\$150).

3. Payment of the civil penalties, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-22, shall total

\$300 and shall be submitted within 15 days from receipt of this Consent Order. The

payment shall be by certified check or money order made payable to the State of New

Jersey and shall be sent to James S. Hsu, Executive Director, State Board of Architects

and Landscape Architects, P.O.Box 45001, 124 Halsey Street, Sixth Floor, Newark, New

Jersey 07101.

4. Non-payment of the penalties and subsequent violations of the statutes and

regulations governing the practice of architecture will subject respondent to enhanced

penalties pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-25 and other disciplinary action provided by law.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF ARCHITECTS

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President

I have read and understand the within Consent Order and agree to be bound by its terms.

Consent is hereby given to the Board to enter this Order.

ALBERT BIRCH, JR. LIC. NO. AI 13166

Dated: 2/19/01